

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5277

DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

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VIENNA FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, HU

SUBJ: 4-H EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST SIGNING OF U.S.-SOVIET 4-H EXCHANGE PROGRAM; AND EVENT HAS NOT ESCAPED ATTENTION OF HUNGARIAN PRESS. SUBJECT TO GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON WE SHOULD LIKE TO PROBE POSSIBILITY OF INSTIGATING SIMILAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH BUDDING HUNGARIAN FARM LEADERS.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AND USDA WELL AWARE MANY OF THE RECENT SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN HUNGARY'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MAY BE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. TECHNOLOGY. YET, THERE REMAINS A WOEFUL LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE, AMERICAN AGRIBUSINESS AND -- PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR THE LONG TERM -- A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AND U.S. PUBLICATIONS ON MODERN FARMING.

3. WHEN AGRICULTURAL SECRETARY BUTZ MET WITH STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AT GODOLLO ON NOV 24 DURING COURSE OF HUNGARIAN VISIT BOTH SECRETARY BUTZ AND EMBOFFS IMMEDIATELY SENSED NEED AND OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S.
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INPUT IN HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION. WE DO NOT

ENVISAGE A QUICK ONE-SHOT PROGRAM WITH DRAMATIC IMPACT. WHAT WE WOULD HOPE TO DEVELOP OVER TIME IS A PROGRAM WITH SUPPORTING PROJECTS WHICH WOULD (1) EXPOSE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF FUTURE HUNGARIAN FARMERS TO AMERICAN METHODS, AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND AMERICAN TEXTS IN THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS; (2) BRING LESSER NUMBER PROSPECTIVE LEADERS TO U.S. UNDER 4-H OR COMPRABLE; AND THEN (3) CULL OUT AND BRING BACK TO U.S. AS REPEATERS, WHEN THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SENIOR OR SEMI-SENIOR STATUS IN MINAG, COLLECTIVES OR COOPERATIVES, THOSE HUNGARIANS WHO HAVE MADE IT. SUCH LONG-TERM EFFORTS, WE HAVE HEARD, HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER EE COUNTRIES.

4. AMERICAN FIRMS ALREADY ACTIVE IN HUNGARY (INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, STEIGER, JOHN DEERE, AND CPS) MIGHT CONTRIBUTE NUCLEUS TO ASSIST PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE. GUIDANCE FROM USG AND SOME SEED MONEY WILL BE NEEDED; BUT THE REWARDS AMERICA MAY REAP IN YEARS TO COME COULD BE GREAT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENTS AND USDA'S COMMENTS.
MCAULIFFE

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